

Graham, Benita

From: Rogers, Rick
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2021 3:25 PM
To: Bahney, Kimberly
Subject: RE: Complaints from DE Citizen

Thanks, Kim.

Yes, I believe the one in the fall was someone had taken pictures of a small tanker truck thinking they were dumping into the waterways but turned out it was water being collected for research at University of Delaware.

I'm not sure it's the same person for this one. He's been referred to DNREC's criminal investigations unit, but he does not trust anyone at the state level and refuses to talk with them. He told me he was afraid for his own welfare. After one incident where he tried to report something, he felt he was being watched and followed so he said he spent a week in a hotel to essentially hide.

I'll contact him and let him know we can't do anything unless we have more evidence of direct impacts to public health.

Thanks,

Rick

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From: Bahney, Kimberly <Bahney.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Rogers, Rick <rogers.rick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Complaints from DE Citizen

Hi Rick.

I have been meaning to respond to the below.

I checked our CID database, and it looks like we responded to a similar complaint last fall, which I believe to be the same situation. We interviewed several people in the area, but could not find evidence to support the accusations. It's reassuring to know that it seems to be a solid waste matter which is more appropriate for the state.

I appreciate you circling back with me.

Kim

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Kimberly Bahney
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From: Rogers, Rick <rogers.rick@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Bahney, Kimberly <Bahney.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Subject: Complaints from DE Citizen

Kim,

Carol Amend had taken a call from a person in DE, Mr. Donald Burdick, who alleged that a lot of illegal dumping had occurred in DE and he believed it was in relation to a chicken processing plant and company. Carol mentioned that she passed on the information she had to you which would have been around April 13th or 14th.

I also spoke to the same person who has since sent a number of files, including a spreadsheet that Google Maps links to aerial imagery of various places the citizen talked about. Everything I've seen in those records would probably be covered under RCRA Subtitle D – Solid Waste Program which is a state-implemented program. I did see one parcel listed in that spreadsheet that looked like it could have been a Clean Water Act wetlands violation, but our staff investigated the site and it turned out the property owner had a permit to log the parcel. The “waste” that the citizen claimed was illegal dumping was actually piles of saw dust, tree limbs and stumps.

He claims that DNREC in DE has not investigated his complaints and he doesn't trust the state. He believes DNREC employees are either covering up these concerns or ignoring them. I spoke to the person at DNREC who is in charge of the waste water program in DE. She has spoken to the citizen and highly recommended that he convey his information to DNREC's criminal investigation group. She said that to her knowledge, he has not done so, probably because of the lack of trust.

I'm not sure if you looked into what Carol had sent to you. I have several emails with attachments I can share if you think this is something CID would look into. A couple of the parcels seem to have some sort of dumping going on, but it appears to be solid waste issues that the state should handle. He claims wells are contaminated and that people are getting sick, but he's not provided any water sample data.. If you'd like to discuss it further, my calendar is up to date.

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